

youth to play soccer no matter what abilities they possess.

Finally, the success of the American Youth Soccer Organization would not be possible without its wonderful volunteers. I commend the patience and dedication of all of those who are involved as players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions the American Youth Soccer Organization has made to our community. The American Youth Soccer Organization serves as an example for other youth soccer leagues across our Nation.

SARAH GEVING: A STORY OF WORK, FAMILY, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, Sarah Geving, a constituent of California's 51st Congressional District, has written a personal account about growing up on welfare. Her real-life story shows how the old welfare system encouraged complacency, bred hopelessness, and trapped many families in a cycle of welfare dependency. Sarah's experience taught her that the best way to break free of the welfare trap was not to give people a handout, but to give them a hand up.

Our new welfare reform law does that. It encourages work, family, and personal responsibility, giving people hope and a better chance at the American dream. I am proud to have played a part in reforming the failed welfare system and to share Sarah's story with my colleagues by entering it into the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States:

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY (By Sarah Geving)

My parents got divorced when I was four years old and we went on welfare shortly after that. We were on welfare for the next eight years. Why did we continue to receive hand-outs from the government for nearly a decade? Because the government kept sending them. Was my mom physically disabled during this time? No, or she would have been on physician ordered "disability." And long-term disability at that! The U.S. government enabled my mother to stay home for eight years.

My mom dropped out of high school in the eleventh grade. Do you think that during the years the government "helped" to take care of us, they encouraged my mom to go back and get her G.E.D.? No. Did they encourage her to attend technical schools so that she would be prepared to enter the job market? No. They should have at least required her to go back and finish high school or get her G.E.D.

When my mom decided to get a job, of course she was totally unprepared in terms of skills, so she had to take a minimum wage job. With welfare reform, we must teach people to progress. Education should be encouraged so that families are not struggling for food as we were. This does not mean that I think we should be working to raise minimum wage. I do not. We should be encouraging work, education, and the spirit of volunteerism. Since my family was so poor even

when my mom went back to work, we relied on church donations, donations from anonymous people, and when all else failed, we stood in line for food. As demeaning as this was, we did eat. Americans are generous and the private sector will help with welfare reform. If we encourage hard work and education, children will not have to grow up feeling ashamed like I did. Families who are experiencing hard times and are struggling for food need to be counseled to make better choices. Volunteers should not only help provide food, but they should also help people make better choices. Better choices means that poverty will be temporary, not generational.

When I stood in line for food it was hurtful emotionally. I was embarrassed. I didn't want my friends at school to know about my true private life. I spent years feeling ashamed. One thing that did help was having a "Big Brother". A friend of a friend wanted to volunteer as a big brother. Instead of going through an agency and being hooked up with a young boy, this mutual friend hooked him up with me. He was a good example for me because he worked for a living and he gave me advice about college. He treated me like I was a person. My home life was not good and it was helpful to spend time with someone stable once in awhile. We must encourage "big brothers" and "big sisters".

My mom had a lot of problems and often could not take care of us. She could have given us over to the State for awhile. She needed foster homes for us. Instead, her church found temporary homes for us until my mom could take us back. My sister and I think we lived in at least nine different homes. If we had been in State foster care, we probably would not have been able to stay in the same part of town and the same school district. Since stability was always lacking, at least we could stay in the same school. Once again, this illustrates the importance of individuals and the idea of volunteerism.

If I had gotten pregnant at 17 or 18, the government would have been willing to support me and how ever many children I may have had. I was definitely an "at risk" child. I believe that one of the things that saved me was help from people—not the government, but individual people.

Private enterprise, individual people, and volunteerism will be crucial in implementing welfare reform. Ending welfare as an entitlement program will give everyone hope, especially children like I once was.

I knew that I needed to go to college. When I was growing up, I worked hard at school. I studied for and took the S.A.T. tests. One thing that I did not plan for was the college application fee. I remember going to see my high school counselor during my senior year of high school. He had often helped me with questions I had about college. I told him, "Well, it looks like I can't go to USD or any other 4 year college like I had planned. We'll have to talk about community colleges or something else." He said, "What changed your mind?" I told him that I had filled out my application and that at the bottom of the application, there was a statement advising applicants that the application fee was \$25.00. There was no way I could come up with that. He didn't say much, but asked me to come back the next day to discuss it further. I did. When I showed up for the appointment, he handed me an envelope and told me to go home and send in my application. After leaving his office, I opened the envelope to see what was inside, and there was \$25.00 cash. I didn't think too much about it at the time, although I was thankful. Now that I am older, that incident keeps coming back to me.

At the time, I guess I assumed that money came out of some school fund. Looking back on it, I think it probably came from his own pocket. On my current list of "things to do" is to hunt him down and pay him back. He would probably be happy to know that I did go to and graduate from college. This is a great example of people helping people. This is what welfare reform is all about.

As a society, it is our duty to teach people to take care of themselves. The government should not do for individuals what they are capable of doing for themselves. When the founders of our country first came to America, they came knowing they would work hard. We need to return to those values.

I have learned this. If you remain fixed in purpose, and strive to achieve your goals, you will succeed in this country. We live in a great country. If I had been born in India and into the caste system, I would still be poor today. If I had been born in a Third-world country, such as Panama or Mexico, I would still be poor today. This country was founded on the principles of hard work. Hard work made this country great. This is the land of opportunity.

Thank you to the elected officials who voted for welfare reform. Thank you to the elected officials who want to return this country back to the idea of smaller government and more personal responsibility.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 210 AND JOHN CUNNINGHAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 1997, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of American Local 210 will be celebrating its Diamond Anniversary and also recognizing John Cunningham who has recently retired as president of the New England District Council of Carpenters and president/general agent of Local 210. I am very pleased to rise today to congratulate Local 210 for reaching this extraordinary milestone and to offer my warmest congratulations to John on the occasion of his retirement after 41 years of leadership.

John is a wonderful friend of mine and I am delighted to have an opportunity to speak about his extraordinary record of accomplishments. John has overseen a number of new programs and policies during his tenure with Local 210. All these programs demonstrate his unwavering commitment to the welfare of workers. Beginning in 1968, Local 210 kicked off the very first apprentice program in all of New England. Today, that program is based in Norwalk with 125 active trainees. John's focus has always been on helping others, not only workers but also their families.

To this end, John oversaw the creation of a credit union to give members access to low-cost loans and a scholarship fund to make college money available to children of union members. However, the best example of John's exceptional commitment to members is his actions after the 1987 collapse of the L'Ambiance construction site in Bridgeport. Local 210 became the focal point of the National Building Trades Council effort to help the family members of those workers killed in the collapse. Under John's leadership, Local 210 raised more than \$300,000 for the families. I am sure that many people are very

grateful to John and Local 210 for spearheading this effort and for making this issue a priority for everyone.

John Cunningham's lasting legacy, however, is his deeply held belief in the importance of unions and the need for organized labor. He recognizes that it is only by sticking together that labor has been able to achieve all the reforms and benefits that have made the workplace safe and secure for workers and their families. Unions are as relevant and important today as they were when workers first began to organize in this country. It is the work and commitment of leaders like John Cunningham and organizations like Local 210 that keeps us all vigilant and dedicated to the continued improvement of the lives and working conditions of laborers in this country.

Again, it is my great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Local 210 on its 100th anniversary and to thank John Cunningham for 41 years of dedication and leadership.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SHELLEY
MOORE, MISS TEEN USA**

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that a fine young woman from my district, Shelly Moore, has been chosen Miss Teen USA. This is a tremendous accomplishment and I want to congratulate Ms. Moore and wish her the very best as she serves as the main representative for young people all over the Nation.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article and editorial from the Knoxville News Sentinel.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Aug. 22, 1997]

**NEW MISS TEEN USA WANTS TO USE TITLE TO
BE STRONG ROLE MODEL**

(By Nicole Pascoe)

Knox County teenager Shelly Moore said Thursday she is still on cloud nine after winning the 15th annual Miss Teen USA pageant, held at South Padre Island, Texas.

The 1997 South-Doyle graduate, daughter of Garland and Tammy Rhoden, was crowned Wednesday night and is taking home about \$150,000 in cash and prizes.

Moore, interviewed by phone while packing to return to Knoxville, said the experience was both exciting and unforgettable.

"It was a wonderful experience. I still can't believe I'm Miss Teen USA," she said. "I was just an average girl yesterday, and in my mind I still am, but it's very exciting."

Moore, 18, said as part of her title she will do a good deal of public speaking and traveling, mainly back and forth to Los Angeles. "I just want to be a good role model," said Moore.

JoAnna Lochen, Moore's cheerleading coach and a home economics teacher at South-Doyle, thinks Moore will have no trouble upholding her title.

"She's steps above anybody and she's a real strong leader. She has a very strong moral upbringing and belief in God," she said.

Lochen said she wasn't surprised that Moore was crowned Miss Teen USA. "She is who she says she is. She looks as beautiful in sweats with her hair pulled back as she did at the pageant," said Lochen.

Moore entered her first pageant one year ago. She claimed the title of Miss North Tennessee, and that led her to the state pageant, in which she also placed first.

Moore plans to enter the University of Tennessee for the second semester and will major in broadcasting. When asked at the pageant whom she would like to interview, she replied former University of Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel, last year's Heisman trophy winner and now a backup quarterback with the New Orleans Saints.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Aug. 25, 1997]

STAYING ON CLOUD NINE

**KNOXVILLE GIRL CAPTURES A NATIONAL TITLE,
MISS TEEN USA CONTEST**

Shelly Moore may never descend from cloud nine—and that's OK with us.

Moore, a 1997 graduate of South-Doyle High School and soon-to-be freshman at the University of Tennessee, won the 15th annual Miss Teen USA pageant held at South Padre Island, Texas. She is the daughter of Garland and Tammy Rhoden.

The experience was as exciting as it was unforgettable. "I was just an average girl yesterday," she said in an interview after she was crowned Wednesday, "and in my mind I still am, but it's very exciting."

The 18-year-old said she will be speaking and traveling a great deal as part of her title. She plans to enter UT for the second semester and will major in broadcasting. As Miss Teen USA, she will take home about \$150,000 in cash and prizes.

Moore entered her first pageant a year ago, claiming the title of Miss North Tennessee. That crown led to the state pageant, which she also won.

Her goal is to be a good role model. No problem there, say those who know her.

"She steps above anybody, and she's a real strong leader," says JoAnna Lochen, Moore's cheerleading coach and a home economics teacher at South-Doyle. "She has a very strong moral upbringing and belief in God."

Lochen also said she wasn't surprised that Moore was crowned Miss Teen USA. "She is who she says she is," Lochen said. "She looks as beautiful in sweats with her hair pulled back as she did at the pageant."

We hope the euphoria Shelly Moore is feeling right now never wears off. We offer our congratulations on winning the title and wish her all the best in the exciting year ahead.

TRIBUTE TO TOM KINARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has been a strong voice in his community for years. Tom Kinard. It is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Kinard today as he celebrates 10 years of broadcasting his show, Kinard n' Koffee, on WJMX-AM in Florence, SC. I have had the pleasure of being one of his guests on several occasions, and I join with all of his listeners in congratulating him for 10 years of outstanding broadcasts.

During the 10 years that Kinard n' Koffee has been broadcast, Mr. Kinard has received numerous awards for his unique style and commitment to his community. Among his accomplishments are six-time South Carolina Radio Personality of the Year, five-time Na-

tional Association of Broadcasters Marconi Finalist for Medium Market Radio Personality, and South Carolina Music and Entertainment Commission Personality of the Year. Mr. Kinard has also received the South Carolina Broadcaster's Association's highest honors for public service with The Richard M. Uray Public Service Award for Outstanding Service to the Community and the highest honor an on-air broadcaster can receive as recipient of the 1996 Master's Award. Among his numerous other awards, Mr. Kinard has been awarded the prestigious Order of the Palmetto, the State of South Carolina's highest honor.

Mr. Kinard's service to his community goes far beyond the radio show that so many hear every morning. He worked with numerous civic groups to aid local charities and promote education. Last winter, Mr. Kinard organized the Kinard-n-Koat drive to collect over 2,000 much needed coats for children and adults in the community. He had listeners send in over 100,000 Christmas cards through Kinard-N-Kristmas Kards for children in local hospitals, and he asked the community to help the soldiers of Desert Storm enjoy a small treat when over 5,000 gallons of Kool-Aid were sent to the Middle East. Mr. Kinard has also spread the holiday message to thousands in the southeast each year with his narrative presentation of "The Other Wise Man" He has given 30-40 presentations a year since 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Members of the House of Representatives join me in saluting Mr. Kinard who is not only a powerful radio voice in South Carolina, but a dedicated citizen in his community. I congratulate him on 10 years of Kinard n' Koffee and wish him Godspeed in his future endeavors.

WELFARE REFORM IS WORKING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, more than 1.3 million people left the welfare rolls. And more than 650,000 of those left in just the last 4 months of the year—following the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act. This is truly a success. Former welfare recipients across the Nation, from San Diego to Atlanta to Boston, have touted our welfare reform bill as the best thing that ever could have happened to them. One former recipient even said, "My life is so much better. I feel better about myself." Another said, "This is the best thing I ever could've done for myself."

We are now witnessing the most dramatic decline in welfare caseloads in the 60-year history of welfare as a result of our efforts to change the mind-set surrounding welfare and to give States more flexibility to design their own programs. But to give credit where credit is due, States and communities across the country are well ahead of Washington. This is where the success stories are being created. And this is where the shift in attitude is taking place on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation moves away from the failed welfare policies of the past, the role of Washington must be to give States the power and resources to begin moving people into self-sufficiency. We must encourage, promote and empower neighbors, charities,